

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A content data reproduction apparatus for reproducing content data, said content data reproduction apparatus comprising:

transmission means for transmitting to a registration confirmation apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests the registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered;

reception means for receiving from said registration confirmation apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered;

storage means for storing content data acquired from a content data provision apparatus, ~~said content data provision apparatus providing~~ said content data ~~which is~~ including a plurality of content data items each prohibited from being stored in a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus;

setting means for setting said plurality of content data items stored in said storage means to reproducible when said reception means receives said registration confirmation signal and after said content data is acquired and stored by the storage means; and

reproduction means for reproducing one of said plurality of content data items when a reproduction command for the one of said plurality of content data items is input via an input means while said plurality of content data items are ~~are~~ [[is]] being set to reproducible by said setting means.

Claim 2. (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

when an operation to purchase said content data which is associated with attribute information informing that said content data is prohibited from being stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus is performed, said content data reproduction apparatus transmits to a content data sales apparatus a purchase notification signal which notifies said content data sales apparatus of an intention to purchase said content data, and then when receiving from said content data sales apparatus a sale notification signal which notifies said content data reproduction apparatus that a sale of said content data is completed, said content data reproduction apparatus changes said attribute information of said content data such that said attribute information informs that said content data is allowed to be stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus.

Claim 3. (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said attribute information informing that said content data is allowed to be stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus shows permission of outputting said content data to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus as if said content data is lent out, or permission of outputting said content data to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus as well as deleting said content data from said storage means.

Claim 4. (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said transmission means transmits said confirmation request signal to said registration confirmation apparatus each time when said content data reproduction apparatus is powered on.

Claim 5. (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

readout means for reading out said content data from a storage medium, wherein said storage means stores said content data read by said readout means.

Claim 6. (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said content data provided from said content data provision apparatus is associated with attribute information informing that said content data is prohibited from being output to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus.

Claim 7. (Original): The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

output means for outputting content data to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus; and

output control means for controlling said output means such that said content data is not output when the attribute information of said content data informs that the outputting of said content data is prohibited.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): A registration confirmation apparatus, comprising:
reception means for receiving from a content data reproduction apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered, said content data reproduction apparatus configured to reproduce content data;

first storage means for storing apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user, along with payment status information showing a payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user;

determination means for checking said first storage means based on said apparatus identification information or said user identification information shown by the received confirmation request signal to determine whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been properly charged payment; and

transmission means for transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered and that a plurality of content data items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus may be set to a reproducible state, in response to the determination result of said determination means.

Claim 9. (Original): The registration confirmation apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

second storage means for storing content data; and

content data transmission means for transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus said content data stored in said second storage means, in response to a request from said content data reproduction apparatus.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): The registration confirmation apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

said content data transmission means transmits to said content data reproduction apparatus said content data which is prohibited from being stored from said content data reproduction apparatus to a location external to said ~~registration confirmation~~ content data reproduction apparatus.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A content data reproduction method of a content data reproduction apparatus for reproducing content data, said content data reproduction method comprising:

transmitting to a registration confirmation apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests the registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered;

receiving from said registration confirmation apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered;

storing in a storage means content data acquired from a content data provision apparatus, ~~said content data provision apparatus providing~~ said content data ~~which is~~ including a plurality of content data items each prohibited from being stored in a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus;

setting said plurality of content data items stored in said storage means to reproducible when said registration confirmation signal is received from said registration confirmation apparatus and after said content data is acquired and stored by said storage means; and

reproducing one of said plurality of content data items when a reproduction command for the one of said plurality of content data items is input via an input means while said plurality of content data items are ~~[[is]]~~ being set to reproducible.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): A registration confirmation method of a registration confirmation apparatus, said registration confirmation method comprising:

receiving from a content data reproduction apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered, said content data reproduction apparatus configured to reproduce content data;

determining whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been properly charged by checking a storage means based on apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user ~~shown~~ included in the received confirmation request signal, said storage means storing said apparatus identification information or said user identification information along with payment status information showing a payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof; and

transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered and that a plurality of content data items stored in said content data

reproduction apparatus may be set to a reproducible state, in response to the determination result ~~of said second step~~.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer readable storage medium including computer executable instructions that ~~, wherein the instructions~~, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method on a content data reproduction apparatus comprising:

transmitting to registration confirmation apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests the registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered;

receiving from said registration confirmation apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered;

storing in a storage means content data acquired from content data provision apparatus, ~~said content data provision apparatus providing~~ said content data ~~which is~~ including a plurality of content data items each prohibited from being stored in a location external to said ~~storage means~~ content data reproduction apparatus;

setting said plurality of content data items stored in said storage means to reproducible when said registration confirmation signal is received from said registration confirmation apparatus and after said content data is acquired; and

reproducing one of said plurality of content data items when a reproduction command for the one of said plurality of content data items is input via an input means while said plurality of content data items are ~~[[is]]~~ being set to reproducible.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer readable storage medium including computer executable instructions that ~~wherein the instructions~~, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving from a content data reproduction apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered, said content data reproduction apparatus capable of reproducing content data;

determining whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been properly charged by checking a storage means based on apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user ~~shown~~ included in the received confirmation request signal, said storage means storing said apparatus identification information or said user identification information along with payment status information showing payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof; and

transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user thereof has been registered and that a plurality of content data items stored in said content data reproduction apparatus may be set to a reproducible state, in response to the determination result ~~of said second step~~.